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LETTER DATED 23 APRIL 1999 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement on East Timor by the Presidency of the European Union, issued on 20 April 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official Security Council document.

(Signed) Gerhard Walter HENZE
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative of
Germany to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the latest incidents in East Timor made on 20 April 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union is deeply concerned that since its declaration of 12 April, violence has escalated substantially in East Timor. In Dili, pro-integration militias carried out new attacks on 17 and 18 April, killing some 30 unarmed civilians and injuring many more. The teenage son of Manuel Jose Carrascalao, speaker of the Conselho Nacional de Resistencia Timorense, is reported to be among those killed. The EU is particularly concerned that these acts of violence occurred within a short distance of the military command of the Indonesian armed forces stationed in East Timor and that those forces did not intervene in order to prevent or stop the incident.

The European Union strongly condemns these acts of violence and urges all parties in the territory of East Timor to show the utmost restraint in order to avoid further such incidents. The EU expresses its deep concern that the Indonesian authorities were unable to prevent the new attacks, resulting in the loss of innocent human lives. The EU notes in this context the fact that the Indonesian Government has likewise condemned these attacks and taken responsibility for the incident. The EU urges the Indonesian Government actively to assume its responsibility and to ensure that violence will not recur. The EU again reiterates its position that it remains the obligation of the Indonesian Government to maintain and preserve security, stability and public order in East Timor, to disarm militias and to hold accountable those responsible for the killings.

Recent developments have shown that a United Nations presence in East Timor is urgently needed to help prevent further violent clashes in East Timor. The EU urges the Indonesian authorities to recognize this need and to allow the United Nations to deploy its personnel in the territory.

The EU underlines the importance of the ongoing tripartite negotiating process which remains the only way to reach a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the East Timorese issue, taking into account the rights of the people of East Timor and the interests of all parties concerned.